

AMATEUR RADIO



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by the W.I.A. (Vic. Div.). Official Organ
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Filament current*	0.20	1	1.6	3.8	1	3.25	A
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Max. anode dissipation	6	10	75	150	15	75	W
Anode dissipation on test .. .	10	20	100	200	20	100	W
Max. screen-grid dissipation .	—	—	—	—	3	15	W
Amplification factor*	6	25	25	25	225	200	
Mutual conductance (slope)*	2.3	2.0	8	4	1.4	1.4	mA/V
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Anode-grid capacity	—	—	—	—	.001	.02	mm/F

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EDITORIAL

After every A.O.C.P. examination there is evident on our bands a number of new signals. Another group of men are starting off into the greatest game on earth, and each new signal increases the responsibility of the older station, who has this grand old hobby, Ham Radio, at heart. It is the seasoned Ham who must help the newcomer on the air, who must give him the necessary confidence to handle a key properly when QSO-ing, teach him the Amateur Code, and show him, by example, the real meaning of this "amateur spirit" of which we are all so proud.

First impressions are lasting ones, and an old-timer cannot be too patient with the newcomer. We all had to make a start ourselves, and all of us, except those with very short memories, can vividly recall the nervousness during those first QSO's. If we were lucky enough to contact a REAL Ham first, we can remember our gratitude when he "QRS-ed" and when he gently corrected our mistakes. In consequence, our confidence came rapidly, and we became imbued with this Ham spirit and the desire, in our turn, to assist others as we had been assisted. Unfortunately, the "spirit" seems to evaporate quickly with some of us, and the desire to co-operate and assist gives place to selfishness.

There are few things in this life of ours which can be as completely upset by individual selfishness as our own hobby of Radio. A poorly neutralised transmitter giving a broad AC signal, a wave that is creeping, key clicks and thumps, long, senseless CQ's, using phone during DX hours are only a few of the many things which can irritate and annoy, or even curtail the pleasure of hundreds on our crowded nar-

row frequencies. Every month the position becomes worse, the number of active stations is increasing, and, although we are acquiring more knowledge regarding selective receivers, steady, pure signals, and the like, the percentage of selfish stations is, at the best, not decreasing.

Every amateur journal has appealed to the Ham fraternity at some time or another to stop selfish operating, and nothing is further from our thoughts than to weary our readers with senseless repetition of the same subject. For our own sakes, here in Australia, though, let us become considerate to our fellow-Hams by helping the new man and co-operating with the old. Let us improve the operating conditions on our bands by taking a pride in our signal and in our procedure on the air. If we desire a more pleasant state of affairs, the remedy is in our own hands.

All VK stations will naturally be extremely interested in the preliminary details of the first Australian-run International Contest, to be found in this issue. Besides proving an extremely interesting contest, by participating, Australian Hams will have the satisfaction of knowing that they are doing their share towards advertising Melbourne's Centenary. Between now and the commencement of the test, no QSO, whether Interstate or DX, should be complete without some mention being made of it to the station contacted. The more VK's competing the keener will be the interest overseas, and, remember, the foreigner will be as anxious to QSO you as you will be to work him. Think of the possibilities of "landing" that elusive African or South American who has held up that WAC for so long! The fun will be fast and furious, to say nothing of the wonderful prizes to be won, so advertise your first International Contest.

THE EDITOR.

An Economy Super Three with Five Tube Performance

By Bruce Mann, Quambatook.

There have been many economy supers devised during the last year or two, but in almost every case the economy comes at the expense of performance. Here is a set which definitely is economical, yet without any sacrifice of tone, sensitivity or selectivity. This is, in short, reflexing brought up-to-date and made near-perfect.

The writer has built many of these supers, and they are all quite free from temperament and have always worked from the word "Go." It is not proposed to describe any one set in detail, but rather to deal more with the theory and leave the intelligent constructor to adapt the ideas to suit his own requirements, for either batteries, AC, DC or universal.

There are several alternative types of frequency changing systems in common use, but in this economy job the new Pentagrid converter seems preferable, as it is cheaper, simpler and gives greater gain. The first decision one must make is to choose the intermediate frequency, and for most practicable purposes the choice lies between 175 KC and 465 KC. The former frequency requires a 3 Gang condenser, and preselection, in order to avoid image interference. This increases expense and complicates matters, but increases adjacent channel selectivity. Further, intermediate transformers of this frequency are more selective and give more gain. It must be remembered, however, that the greater gain is offset by the loss in pre-selection.

The thermal agitation noise level will be less with the 465 KC system as the signal input will be greater to the grid of the converter, where there is no pre-selection. The 465 KC intermediates are also less likely to clip the sidebands so that the high note response will be better using this system.

Therefore, if one wants ultra-selectivity, use the 175 KC system,

otherwise use the 465 KC frequency for cheapness, simplicity, tone and silent background, the gain being about the same in each case.

An examination of the circuit diagram will show that a 2B7 or 6B7 diode penthode tube is used as the IF amplifier, diode detector and then as the audio amplifier by reflexing. This tube, with 250 volts on the plate, and 30 per cent. modulation will feed 36 peak volts AF to the grid of a penthode power tube, and will, therefore, easily load up any penthode on the Radiotron chart, so the reader must choose the one that suits him best. One point to remember is that the screen grid voltage to the 2B7 tube is critical at about one-fifth of the plate voltage.

Volume is controlled by a 500,000 ohm potentiometer, which serves as a load resistor to the diode. A local distance switch may be needed in addition by city hams. For example, a resistance may be switched across the aerial terminals on strong local signals.

When purchasing the coil kit it is important that the oscillator coil and padding condenser are designed for the pentagrid converter, at the intermediate frequency to be used. The internal capacities of the various types of oscillator tubes differ so much that the coils are not interchangeable. Care should also be taken in mounting and wiring the padding condenser, to see that it is held firmly, as any variation of capacitance to the chassis will upset the padding.

Having assembled and wired the set and checked the wiring, apply the power and test the audio end with a pick-up. Having proved that it is working correctly, try the set on the air. If there is no sign of life, most likely the oscillator is not functioning. Try reversing the plate leads to the oscillator coil. Next choose a sharp signal on which to line up the intermediate transformers. Be

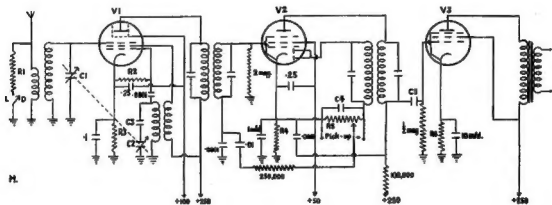
sure to avoid hand capacitance in this job. The intermediates are usually fairly accurately tuned by the manufacturers, so this is merely a final adjustment required to make up for the different wiring capacitance of the particular set.

Next comes the tracking and padding. Remember, through this operation that the oscillator tuning determines the dial setting in every case.

With the set tuned to, say, 3AK, adjust the trimmer on the oscillator gang of the condenser, so that this station comes in at about one degree on the dial. Now tune to a station between 1300 and 1400 KC and adjust the aerial tuning condenser trimmer until it peaks. Next tune in 2CO, then set the dial at 99. Adjust the padding condenser in the required direction to bring in 2CO on 99 degrees. A slight re-adjustment may now be necessary on the 1300-1400 KC station. Mark the position

of the screw slot on the aerial trimmer and, starting from the bottom of the band, tune in a station about every 10 degrees. On each station, turn the trimmer to find where is peaks. If it peaks at the marked position, all is well. If not, then bend the slotted plates either in or out, as required, until the peak comes at the marked position. Should the bending of the slotted plates on the condenser not give enough adjustment, the oscillator gang plates may be bent in the opposite direction at the corresponding position.

If the kit is badly matched it may prove very difficult to line up the set satisfactorily, and if difficulty is experienced by the constructor, the writer will be only too pleased to assist. The "Golden Range" of tubes will shortly be tried in this type of set using probably, E452T as Autodyne, E444 for IF, Det., and Audio, and 2A5 type penthode. This should give huge gain but will probably need a good deal of stabilising.



- | | |
|---------|--|
| C1 & C2 | Gang Condenser |
| C3 | Adjustable Padding Condenser |
| C4 | .0002 mfd |
| C5 | .01 mfd (Mica) |
| R1 | 100 ohms |
| R2 | 50,000 ohms approx. |
| R3 | 250 ohms. (If unstable, increase to 450 or 600 ohms) |
| R4 | Bias resistor depends on the plate voltage. |
| | For 100 volts on plate use 2000 ohms. |
| | " 150 " " " " 1800 " |
| | " 175 " " " " 1700 " |
| | " 200 " " " " 1600 " |
| R5 | 500,000 ohm |
| R6 | Bias resistor to suit the power tube used. |
| V1 | 6A7 or 2A7. |
| V2 | 6B7 or 2B7. |
| V3 | 2A5, 41 or 42. |

Grid Bias Modulation

A summary of a lecture given to the key section of the W.I.A. (SA Div.) by F. O Grady, Esq., Transmission Engineer' at 5CL and 5CK.

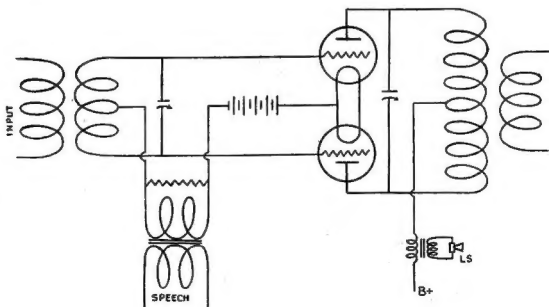
By VK5MU.

This particular system was tried extensively by earlier experimenters, but in all cases the results were disappointing, due mainly to distortion in the output. It has been found recently that the main cause for the non-success of these early experiments was due to their modulating a self-excited oscillator, and the consequent presence of grid current. This system can, therefore, be used successfully if the modulated tube is an amplifier, which is not driven to the point where grid current will flow. The advantages will be immediately apparent to readers, as there will be a reduction in the number of stages in the transmitter, or, alternatively, in the speech amplifier, and also in the elimination of the need for large audio chokes.

into the push-pull stage, and the phone into the two tubes acting in parallel. Referring to the circuit, the load resistor shown across the audio input is usually a non-inductive resistor of about $\frac{1}{2}$ megohm, and the transformer a Ferranti AF5 (1-3 ratio).

Adjustment and Operation.

For the speech amplifier a small receiving tube will be sufficient to swing the grids of the push-pull amplifier. The bias in the amplifier is adjusted, so that the tube just draws plate current with the normal CW plate voltage and NO excitation. The excitation is then applied and reduced until the RF voltage swing to the grids of the amplifier tubes is equal to half the value of the negative grid bias



The modulation system described utilises a push-pull amplifier, and is derived from the method employed in carrier systems. The carrier is fed

being applied as described above. (A meter for measuring the RF voltage is described below.)

The modulation is then applied and

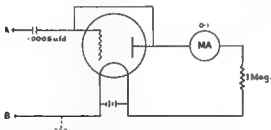
the gain control adjusted until the grids of the push-pull amplifier have an audio grid swing of half the value of the grid bias voltage on modulation peaks. Thus on modulation peaks the grid bias of the amplifier tubes will equal zero, but as they do not reach positive potential no grid current can flow in the circuit. Therefore if the RF voltage swing is adjusted correctly a milliammeter in the grid circuit will enable the audio input to be adjusted to the correct value by increasing the audio input until the meter just moves on modulation peaks.

Since the two amplifier tubes are in parallel with the modulation, the audio component will be present in the wire feeding the plate voltage on to the tubes. If desired, a good quality audio transformer can be placed in this lead, and the output coupled to a pair of headphones. Thus the output can be continually monitored.

Every system has its disadvantages, and this one is no exception. Since no grid current can be allowed to flow, the efficiency is fairly low, compared with amplifiers of the Heising type.

A METER FOR MEASURING RF VOLTAGES.

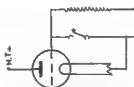
The meter is simply a 1000 volt DC meter with any tube acting as a diode rectifier. The two wires, A and B, are placed on the two points of a cir-



cuit, and the RF potential difference between the two points is read directly on the meter. B is only earthed when one point of the circuit to be measured is at earth potential. The filament supply is DC, and, except in the case mentioned above, not at earth potential.

ELIMINATING THOSE KEY CLICKS.

In reconstructing VK3GQ and installing the late 3BG transmitter for RAAF WR work, both on 7 mc and 3.5 mc, the trouble usually experienced with BCL's and key clicks was anticipated, and tube keying was installed. After many experiments the final arrangement shown in the sketch is self-explanatory, and, no doubt, will be of interest. Click elimination is complete even when using up to 250 watts on 3.5 mc and testing with a broadcast receiver within 6 feet of the transmitter. With the B/C re-



ceiver 25 feet away in another room all Melbourne stations could be listened to 100 per cent. in daylight. As both 3AW and 3KZ have a very low field strength in this locality, the sensitivity control on the receiver is tuned almost fully on for these stations. The excellence of this system can only be appreciated after having used maximum impact filters and experiencing objectionable interference on all stations except 3LO and 3AR, under the same operating conditions. The filter is most efficient when used on the stage following the CO, and in this case a A415 tube breaks about 30 mill's.

HARMONICS.

We understand that there is to be a pilgrimage of VK3 hams, who are looking for WAC certificates, to Maitheura, N.S.W. VK2JJ informed those present at the last Key Section meeting that the easiest continent to contact is South America!

VK3DH has discovered a new type of barometer. He has an 0-2 hot wire ammeter, and when not registering radiation it reads well below scale in changeable weather, and about .2 amp. when wx is fine and warm.

Centenary Celebrations

(By VK3ML, Manager Centenary Contest Committee.)

Announcing the Melbourne Centenary International DX Contest:

When? During the four week-ends in October, 1934.

For whom? A contest for both transmitting and receiving stations.

With whom? The whole world! VK works the world.

Thus, in brief, the Victorian Division of the WIA announces the first Australian International DX Contest. The test is being staged to give publicity to and celebrate Melbourne's Centenary, which commences in October this year.

This will be the first time in history that any division or even the F.H.Q. of the W.I.A. has staged such a magnitudinous undertaking. We have all been the "guests" of the W's and G's often enough and have thoroughly enjoyed their tests. Now it's our turn to offer one in return. We are inviting the whole world to come and contact as many VK's as they can. Our stations will only be asked to work as many DX stations as possible. That's easy enough? To each station contacted, a serial number is handed, and one is received in exchange. Together with this, a signal strength report will complete the QSO.

The scoring will be one point for each 1000 miles of QSO. Thus, the test is a combination of BERU and ARRL ideas, but we are going one better in several points.

To add to the fun of the Test, the VK's will multiply their total by the number of Countries worked and those outside VK, by the number of VK districts contacted. What scores are possible with about 100 Countries to work! Don't forget that the QRP merchant will get his "kick" out of the contest, because the world will be listening for even the squeakiest signal! It's a chance for everybody. If WAC's and WBE's are not won by the dozen; then don't blame us!

The S.W.L. will have his share of the fun too. The contest provides for a separate test for receiving stations in all parts of the world, and they are eligible for awards also. The full details are given in the rules below.

Awards? Certainly. For the win-

ning VK we hope to offer a brand new 852. The second and third prizes will probably be a 50 wattter and a thermo couple meter, respectively. These have not been chosen to-date, but we want to get the "dope" on the test out early, so that it will give you time to chat the world up about it.

The success of the contest depends on the number of VK's entering. Thus, a few words about the test should be an essential part of all QSO's for the next six months. Tell everybody about it—tell the J's, the G's, and, in fact, every ham you work.

Besides the sumptuous awards listed here, the winning station in each division will be awarded one of the attractive Centenary contest certificates. For the SWL we have to offer a handsome Cup as first prize and certificates as in the case of the transmitting contest. There will be plenty of awards left for the rest of the world! Special certificates, that can be proudly hung up for the next 100 years, will be offered to all Countries.

Again, we are making the contest attractive to all by awarding, through the courtesy of the Editors of Amateur Radio, another prize for the world's best station description, which is to accompany each entry. More about that later, too.

The most important item to be explained now is the serial number business. It's the same as that used in the W contest, but in case any ham is not familiar with that test and its operations we are rehashing the details.

Each competing station allots himself three figures, anything between 111 and 999. He retains these throughout the contest. He must exchange a six figure serial number each QSO; so for the first contact he adds three naughts, making his number, say, 367,000. This is given to the station worked and one is received in exchange. Now, the second three figures from here on are taken from the first three of the serial number last received, and are added onto the station's own three figured number. For example, VK5FM has assigned

himself 281 and has passed 281,000 onto his first DX QSO. He received from that station 457, 878 in exchange. His next number will now be 281,457 and so on throughout the test, adding the first three figures received to his own three after each contact. Stations at both ends do this and is proof of a QSO. Both the "in" and "out" serial numbers are entered in the log.

Naturally, distant stations will be most sought after to get those few extra points for each 1000 miles, but what a system can be worked out! ZL'ers all day and DX all night! There is nothing strenuous about this test because fatigue is spread over four week-ends!

"Amateur Radio" will be publishing further details each month, so look for them.

MELBOURNE CENTENARY INTERNATIONAL DX CONTEST.

Rules and Conditions.

1. There shall be two contests:—
(a) Transmitting; (b) Receiving.

2. The Wireless Institute of Australia Centenary Contest Committee's ruling will be binding in case of any dispute.

3. The nature of the Contest requires the world to work Australia.

4. The Contest is to be held from 0001 G.M.T., Saturday, October 6, till Sunday, October 7, 1934, at 2359 G.M.T., and will be continued over the four week-ends in October at the times stated above on each occasion. The dates of the other week-ends are: October 13-14, October 20-21, and October 27-28, 1934.

5. The Contest is open to all licensed transmitting amateurs and receiving stations in any part of the world. Unlicensed ship and expedition stations are not permitted to enter the Contest. Financial members of the W.I.A. and its affiliated societies only will be eligible for an award in V.K.

6. Only one licensed operator is permitted to operate any one station under the owners call-sign. Should two or more operators operate any particular station, each will be considered a competitor and must enter under his own call-sign and submit, in his log, the contacts established by him. This debars persons from entering who have not a ham licence.

7. Each entry must be signed by

each competitor as a declaration of the above statement.

8. Each participant will assign himself a serial number of three figures as detailed in the contest description. When two or more operators work the one station each of them will allot himself a separate number.

9. All amateur frequency bands may be used.

10. Only one contact with a specific station on each of the bands during each week-end will be permitted.

11. Contacts may be repeated on each of the succeeding week-ends with the same stations in accordance with Rule 10.

12. Each contact must be accompanied with an exchange of serial numbers and signal strength reports using the T QSA and R systems.

13. Scoring: One point will be scored by each contacting station for every 1000 miles between the Capital Cities of the States of the competing stations, measured by a Great Circle Line. The points claimed are to be entered on the entry form.

14. Australian Stations will multiply their total score by the number of Countries worked and the stations outside VK, by the number of Australian Districts contacted, there being 8 all told, viz., VK2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

15. No prior entry need be made for this contest but each contestant is to submit a log at the conclusion of the test showing: Date, Time (G.M.T.), band, station worked, in and out signal strength reports, in and out serial numbers, distance between stations, and the points claimed for each QSO.

16. Entries from VK stations must reach the Wireless Institute of Australia (Victorian Division), Kelvin Hall, Collins Place, Melbourne, Victoria, no later than 1st December, 1934. Foreign entries will be received up till 31st January, 1935.

17. The awards for all winning competitors will consist of a special attractive Melbourne Centenary Contest Certificate. The station returning the highest total in any Country will be entitled to an award, with the addition of similar special awards for the winners of each District of U.S.A. and Canada, and each of the British Isles. There will be no World Winner in this contest.

18. A special prize will be given to

the grand winner in Australia, probably consisting of an 852 valve as the first prize. The contestant in each VK Division who returns the highest total for his District will also be awarded a Centenary Certificate. The official organ of the W.I.A. Amateur Radio will award a special trophy for the outstanding station description accompanying logs.

19. Foreign stations should call CQ VK "CENT," and Australian stations CQ DX "CENT."

Receiving Contest.

1. The rules for the receiving contest are the same as for the transmitting contest, but is open to members of any recognised Short Wave Listeners Society in the world. No transmitting station is allowed to compete in the receiving contest.

2. Only one operator is permitted to operate any one receiver.

3. The dates, scoring of points, and logging of stations once on each band

per week-end are subject to the same rules for the transmitting contest.

4. To count for points, the calling of the station being called, and the strength and tone of the calling station together with the serial number and signal strength report sent by the calling station, must be entered in the log.

5. The above items must be filled in before points can be claimed, that is, it is not sufficient to log a station calling CQ or TEST. Verification of reception must be made in accordance with the conditions in Rules 4 above.

6. VK receiving stations cannot include VK transmitting calls in their logs, only foreign. Foreign stations will enter-up VK station heard only.

7. The awards in the transmitting and receiving contests will be similar. The winning VK receiving station will be awarded a Cup, providing he is a member of the W.I.A. or its affiliated societies.

8. Receiving logs are to be similar to the transmitting logs.

HARMONICS

VK3LH has an allocation on 2200 KC as a television wave. He would appreciate schedules and reports on his signals on this frequency.

A limited number of Centenary celebration stickers for QSL cards are available to Victorian members. Those desirous of obtaining them write immediately to the Secretary, Key Section, VK3PS.

Lack of space this month precluded a description of the Victorian key section versus phone section cricket match at Mt. Eliza. A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all, and the phone boys finished up winners by nine runs, they say by sheer merit, but the key section assert the victory was only obtained after they had lent the "publicity" members several players.

A NOVEL ALARM.

During the recent BERU contest VK3GD was unfortunate enough to have the power cut off at about 1 a.m. Not knowing how long it would remain off he connected a buzzer across his C.O. bias supply and went to sleep. Immediately the power came on again he was awakened by this novel alarm.

RANDOM RAMBLINGS.

(By QRZ.)

VK3VU seems to have become more conscious. He was heard with PDC and fairly steady. Last time I heard him he was not only rough RAC, but was wobbling all over the place.

VK2YL still thinks that rough, unsteady note gets out best. Say, OM, you should hear the G's in the BERU contest, and think it over.

VK2NH a trifle rough OM. How about trying a bit of filter for a change. You'll be surprised.

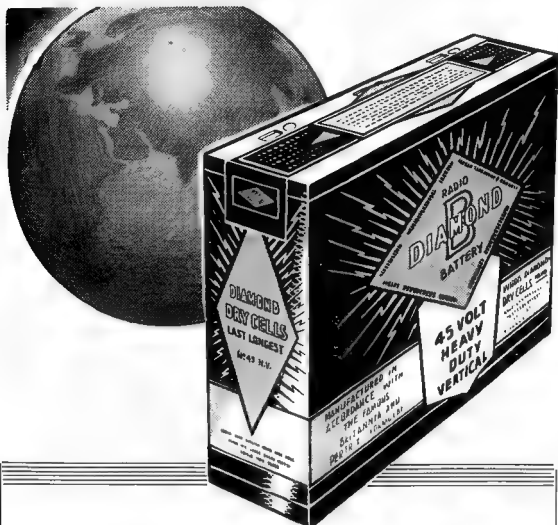
And now look what the fives have been doing.

VK5BC heard calling CQ. FB note but his call was 15, 14, 17 and 16 CQ's before signing. Of course, I didn't listen any more, so I don't know how many more followed.

Yes, after careful consideration, I think that was CQ you were trying to send VK5LG. Ever tried listening on a monitor? It improves sending.

VK5LD was heard during BERU contest with a terrible wobbly creation of RAC.

Now you'd think an old timer like VK5GR would have an up-to-date signal. Same old chirpy NDC to RAC note. Gets out pretty well though, so why worry if the chirps blot out some of the other fellow's DX!



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DIAMOND-PERTRIX

RADIO BATTERIES AND TORCH REFILLS

For Greater Power and Longer Service

VK5HB—Only a new chap and will soon learn that modern hams have good PDC signals. (If they are modern.)

Now why pick the CW men? Who would want to live over in VK5 with punk fones like 5MZ, 5KG, 5MK, and Co. on the air? No wonder we don't hear those good VK5 fones on much, that is 5DX, 5FM, 5WJ, 5LR, 5ZC, etc.

VK5BM—Another crowweather who thinks RAC best.

VK6FL seems to think there's some advantage in chirps. I may be dense but I fail to see any.

ZL3AN was heard with one of those typical ZL RAC notes. Sounded almost like a VK.

VK2BK was heard with some sort of rippy note.

And VK2XM is another with a note that was ancient when the 11 year cycle was young.

There's probably a lot more, but I haven't time to listen.

73 & CUL.—QRZ.

Editor's Notes:—Please Mr. "QRZ," read the last paragraph of a letter by 2BP, under the heading of "QTC." Also, please drop me a line as I have a few ideas for you. I promise to keep your identity confidential and to myself only.—Ed., "A.R."

"QTC"

To the Editor.

Sir,—One hears on our high frequency bands a weird and wonderful conglomeration of "notes," "fists" and "procedure." This whirlpool of activity is, in the majority, centred on the 7 mc band, and on listening of an evening one is led to think of what this band must be like in the U.S.A., with their thousands of active hams. However, it may be interesting to look at our own country, where we find there were 1107 amateur licences in force in Australia on 31st December, 1933. Let us analyse these, and we find that VK2 has 419, VK3 has 320, VK4 has 137, VK5 has 117, VK6 has 76, VK7 has 34, and VK9 has 4.

These figures are on the increase, as shown for the six months, July to December (inclusive), 1933, when we find that 98 new licences were issued, distributed as follows:—VK2, 41; VK3, 17; VK4, 16; VK5, 13; VK6, 7; VK7, 4. The actual increase for the six months was 59, as the number of can-

cellations amounted to 39 during the same period. Since compiling these figures the January list has come to hand, on which we find a further 30 new calls listed, against four cancellations.

With this increase in numbers comes a decided swelling of poor notes, unstable signals, and decidedly bad operating procedure, though off frequency operation is of very low percentage. In connection with "bad procedure," this is perhaps the easiest fault of all to rectify, and it is up to some chaps (in cases, hams of long standing) to look to their operating procedure. It would fill the magazine to quote all the stations heard who seem to delight in filling the air with lengthy CQ's, adjustment of 'mitters whilst coupled to the antenna, etc.; but I will quote just one instance, perhaps the worst I have heard, when VK2FK called "cq" for eight minutes and twenty-five seconds, commencing at 11.50 a.m. on February 5, 1934. The cq's were broken up into groups of 28, 16, 21, 19 and 10. Such procedure is decidedly "crook," and all hams should try and stamp it out.

I noticed in "Amateur Radio" (W.I.A. VK3 Mag.), an article headed "Random Ramblings," which drew attention to some stations. Personally I think an article of similar nature each month would be a decided asset, inasmuch as it would bring to note some of the "noises" which at present cause untold QRM.

Wishing this publication all the success it deserves, yours, etc.,

E. B. FERGUSON.

Railway parade,

Hazelbrook, N.S.W., 9/2/34.

VK2BP (A.R.A. Zone Officer),

District Commander, R.A.A.F.W.R.
N.S.W. Division.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS.

The well-known "Marathon Schedule Keeper," W2CC, has worked VK5HG 687 times; W9APY-W9WR 525 times; and W6CXW and W9JO each 100 times. This is up to January 7, 1934. and in the case of VK5HG traffic for the Carnegie Institute has been handled.

VU7 is now the State Mysore in India.

Mr. Ayling, well known as AC1BD back in 1929, is now using VU2DX, and wishes to work all old VK friends.

VK3 SECTION NOTES

Key Section

(Conducted by L. T. Powers, VK3PS.)

In taking over the position as Secretary of this section, I feel sure I am in order by, firstly, thanking our former secretary, on behalf of the section, for the able way he carried out his duties and for the excellent notes he wrote for our magazine each month. I feel I have something to live up to. 3KR is now very QRL as secretary of the division, and we regret that he has not the time to be an executive of this section also.

In the contest line, advance details are published elsewhere about our Centenary Contest to be held in October. This is to be a wonderful chance for all DX fiends, and we want every ham in VK that can get a rig on the air to be in it. The details have already been sent to QST and T. & R. and this test is to have world publicity. While it is on, the whole world will be listening for VK calls and we expect a rush for W.A.C. certificates when it's over. Also the prizes will be well worth having, so start getting those rigs in order, particularly the receivers and be ready for a few heavy nights.

Sunday, 18th February, saw a gathering of the Key punchers, and cars at Alexandra Avenue, whence they sped to Mount Eliza and waited weary hours for the arrival of their challengers at cricket—the Fone gang. When the latter did arrive with only half a side, the order of the day was declared to be a bathe and lunch. The Fone gang then got lost looking for Davies Bay. After, the brasspounders transferred some of their team to make even sides, the Fone section said they won. After the game was over, all went beachward again with the feeling that all had had a good day.

Before our next issue appears, our Section Chairman—3UK will have joined the ranks of the married and the section stands behind me in wishing him all the best for the future. Incidentally, I hear that his YF will also be on the air with a call of her own.

In conclusion, I want to say that this job of writing notes was more

or less sprung on me suddenly, and I haven't been able to collect any dope from the boys. After this I would like to get as much as possible from the members of the section, and that includes most country hams who, although they don't regularly attend meetings, are exponents of the key. For instance, when 3KR tried out his French on an F who promptly came back in solid French, Ken wondered what had hit him, or if someone hears 5MK sending CQ with a quavering note like a fervent prayer, just let me know about these little happenings and they will go in with your notes.

Cheerio, FER NW.

VK3 Phone Notes

The last meeting of the Phone Section was held on Tuesday, January 30. It was well attended, and, probably due to the fact that we had not met since November, everyone seemed particularly pleased to see one another. The gang had apparently spent their holidays (if any) quite successfully, either at home or at some place where one goes for the purpose.

Mr. Thompson also read to the meeting the letters sent to and received from the New Zealand DX Radio Association. They in N.Z. are very enthusiastic indeed about our proposed competition, and will undoubtedly give us all the assistance in their power to make the competition a success. The various clubs, DX-ers, etc., in N.Z. are to be zoned, and each will send along its individual report, which system would prevent any possibility of a station which may be a popular favourite receiving unfair marks.

Quite a lengthy discussion took place on the matter of power handicapping. There seemed to be an assortment of opinions on the subject, and up to date no real solution has been suggested, and it seems that they whose duty it will be to do the handicapping are going to have a very difficult task to perform. It would certainly be much simpler if every station utilised a final stage power of 25 watts and then concentrated on getting as high a modulation percentage and general efficiency as possible. If

that were the case, no handicaps would be necessary.

While on the subject of our competition, will all 200 MX fone stations please send in their applications for the forthcoming competition to the Secretary Phone Section as soon as possible? State power to be used, any technical details, and full particulars of transmitting gear to be used. Only finalists will be required to furnish sealed particulars of their proposed stunt, but this does not mean that you need not start to think up your stunts. Don't forget—we want applications from everybody.

Going from March to April—don't forget to tell your off-siders and second ops. that the new class for the Amateur Operator's Certificate of Proficiency commences in April, and will be limited to 30 members.

IMPORTANT.

3TH moved and 3KE seconded that all applications for wave length on the band 200 metres and over be accompanied by a crystal for the wave length that the station was operating on; all applications not accompanied by a crystal shall be ignored.—Carried unanimously.

As a final reminder, don't forget to bring along your crystals to the next meeting, gentlemen; in fact, to all future meetings.

IVOR MORGAN, 3DH.

COUNTRY NOTES

Western District.

3GQ has been using a 211 in the final stage, and did fairly well in the Senior Section of the BERU test, although full power was not used during BCL hours and his score is not, therefore, as high as it might have been. He worked 37 G's during the test, best report being R8 from G20A. Frank sure gets a kick from his QRO, and now lights his cigarettes from the clothes line. Intends trying 56MC tests with 3NQ, but no report on results as yet.

3GY has been transferred from Camperdown to Footscray. His 200 metre transmissions will be missed by the locals. 3GC and 3NK, also of Camperdown, not heard lately but believed active. 3NQ is working DX on 20 metres, and trying new aerial system. The Geelong gang seem to

put in most of their time on 200 metres, 3ZZ has joined the Navy, but still has time for QSO's during holidays. 3BW heard on the publicity band, and also on 20 and 40. Judging by the amount of DX heard calling him, 3KX is still as active as ever. 3LE is on the air again after his recent illness, and spends most of his time on Reserve work. Roy is contemplating exploring the Otway Ranges, accompanied by a portable rig. 3AL has returned from a trip to the Barrier Reef and is back on the job on Reserve work and 40 metres with a nice T9 signal. 3GM and 3ZL heard on very good fone, the latter still working DX. 3NZ, of Terang, has joined the fone gang on 80. The one-time active boys in Warnambool are not heard much lately. 3DX puts out 200 metre fone, but his carrier is rather rough for high quality. 3GJ has been compelled to withdraw from Reserve work, but hopes to stage a comeback when circumstances permit. 3PG, Casterton, heard occasionally chasing DX on 20—worked a new ham signing 3BR. Think he is a new ham in Briargolong. 3OW and 3HG confine their attention mainly to Reserve work, but work a little DX when in the humour. 3OW has installed a new power supply of the spark coil type, with a separate vibrator, and finds it FB for work at night when QRM from the engine and alternator raises further QRM with the family, hi. 3HG still experimenting with crystal lock, and would like to hear from anyone who has tried it.

The task of compiling the Western District notes has been entrusted to 3HG and 3OW, so drop a line to either or give them a call anytime. Cheerio and 73—3HG, 3OW.

Mallee and Northern.

Well, say what you like, but the country gang are stickers. Despite the QRM from every known brand of electrical device, to say nothing of the really fierce QRN during the past hot weather, it has been only necessary to switch on the receiver to hear some of them. In spite of the fact that 3500kc should be dead at this time of the year it appears to be the busiest band, especially during week-ends. 40 metres is fairly active but 20 is very quiet. Several of the QSO's lately have been personal ones. 3WE went across to Swan Hill sports

and duly looked up the gang. 3ZK, Jim Stevens, is a no meter expert—how would some of you city chaps like to put a fone transmitter on the air without a single meter. 'Sfact, and not too bad, either. 3PY was also on a visit to Swan Hill, and 3ZK now boasts a 40 metre half-wave zepp with 40ft. feeders and his signals have gone up several points. 3KU was QRL with public address system at the sports, but we had a chin-wag about things in general. He is still on 200 metres, but hopes to try 80 during the winter.

3PY spent a few hours with the Birchip boys on his way home, and rumour hath it that he missed several small parts of his car when he eventually started for home. Paul also blames the Birchip beer for his lapse in returning another ham's QSL card instead of his own. (Wonder if that's the reason I've received so few lately, or are some hams merely forgetful). As stated above, most of the northern gang are heard pretty consistently. 3OR's sig. overrides all QRN here, and 3KR also wallops in when not QRL??? 3CE not heard much during last couple of weeks—must be building up that crystal rig. 3LH has been off 80 after getting out well on the harmonic of his 1185 KC xtal.

Cheerio—3WE.

COUNTRY FONE STATIONS.

200 MX Band.

All country VK3 stations operating on the 200-250 metre band will please observe the following instructions:—

- (1) Immediate application must be made to the **Radio Inspector**, Treasury Buildings, Melbourne, for a renewal of permit to date from April 1, 1934 to June 30, 1934.
- (2) Application for an allocation must be in the hands of the allocations officer (VK3TH, 93 Booran road, Caulfield, SE9), not later than March 14, 1934, otherwise it will not be considered in this quarterly issue.
- (3) There are one or two channels vacant, and any member of the W.I.A. who desires to operate on this band is advised to make an application as in (1) and (2) separately, in the latter case giving full particulars of xmitter and power to be used; all

stations on this band must be piezo-electric controlled (CC).

- (4) It is most important that these instructions be strictly adhered to, as failure to apply will be accepted as an intimation that a frequency is not required.

G. F. Thompson,
Allocation Officer.

THE ASSOCIATION OF RADIO AMATEURS (N.S.W.)

Secretary: Mr. R. H. W. Power,
Wembley House, 841 George street,
Sydney.

The council of the A.R.A. would, at this juncture, like to express their appreciation of the courtesy extended to their association by the Federal Convention just held, when it was decided to offer the A.R.A. affiliation with the Federal executive of the W.I.A. This step will without a doubt be welcomed by N.S.W. hams, who are now being asked to ballot upon the question in order to comply with constitutional requirements. When this affiliation has been constitutionally completed, it is felt that the action will result in the whole of the amateurs of the Commonwealth being once again welded into one solid body, a state of affairs that has not existed for many moons past.

Whilst in contemplation of this pleasant prospect, it would be as well for the hams throughout the Commonwealth to bear in mind that internal strife, whilst easily fomented, can be the cause of endless trouble and disunity, and that squabbles and disruptions, although easily brought about in the first instance, are usually the cause of splits and discontent, requiring years to patch up. Let us all, therefore, from now on, work together in harmony and agreement for the good of the cause and in the hopes that we shall see an end to the excessive amount of trouble that has occurred over the past few years.

Let us at all times be prepared to "cast out the beam which is in our own eyes before we look for the mote which is in our brother's eyes."

FRANCIS M. GOYEN,
President.

ROBERT H. W. POWER,
Secretary.

ZONE 1.

Well, gang, sorry I missed last month's notes, but QRL, as usual. Hi! But here we are again. Haven't been up on 80 mx, and only down on 20 for a short while. Have been on 40 mx a good deal, though.

2CP has been complaining of rotten condx down his way, and 4JF has been saying much the same thing. 4JF still using the ole Hartley. 2NH has a good DC sig, which is thrown forth from a PP TNT rig. 4GK has fb XPDC sig. The YL was on the key when QSO'd by 2PE. TNX 2BK, OM, fer that very fb QSP. Hpe cn agn an. 2YI still using Hartley, but is now QRO with 40 watts. Reckons DX is fb. 2ED using a TNT with 12 watts input. 2LP also using 12 watts. 3DC just put up a new aerial. What was it, OM, Wind? 4OB using Hartley with 15 watts to A245. 2OY using Hartley with a 210 DX. 3TD using a 2-stage xtal rig with a 59 as a tritet osc. Reckons he is going to rebuild, so will be off the air for about a week. 2QZ using a two-stage rig xtal with 10 watts. 28SQ using a PP 46 job with 30 wots! W7DVB using a four-stage xtal rig with 370 watts to 852. Oh! for Yankeeand! Hi! 2TH blew his RX rectifier when on QSO, so couldn't go over to receiver. K6EEI has ampo floating away from the clothesline. Dud, of 2DQ, is now a full-blown secretary. Fb, Dud, OC. 2DQ ripped his gear out and started to make a four-stage rig, but ran out of gear, so decided on three-stage. Hi! When it was tried out it had 50 watts input without the ant!!! He is now slowly rebuilding. 2HX now has a swell receiver—all A.C. job—58, 57, 56, and works like a charm. Believe 2AW has been building a MOPA. He and 2DQ are going to go 10 mx mad fer a while.

Well, gang, NM NW, so cu next month. 73 dx de.

JIM,
Zone 1, A.R.A.

ZONE 5.

Conditions during January and February have been very patchy on both 40 and 80 MX bands. QRN has been unbearable at times on the lower freq band, and 40 MX has been the parking place of most of the gang.

Comparing conditions on 40 MX with this time last year, one is struck by the great change in average con-

ditions on all bands. One finds that, at the time of writing, it is very hard to QSO stations situated inside a radius of about 200 miles, whereas last year the locals boomed in on 40 MX. Interstate s.g.s are very fair at all hours, the peak period being just before sundown.

VK5JK is consistently received here at good strength, and he is using only 3 watts. A portable using the call XVK2BP recently worked VK2, 3, 4 and 5, getting FB reports with under one watt input. The station was located at Katoomba. 4GK has FB YL op. only eleven years of age. Haven't heard Marj., of 3HQ, lately—saving up the energy for the next "five pointer"? Congrats on the result of the last, Marjorie, and don't forget "Shylock" in the next one. 2CK now has a new 'mitter built up in a rack. Geoff delights in blowing up 406's with a 1500 volt genny. Get a 211, OM. 2HO gets QRM from two-months-old second op. 6FO still going higher with the sky wire. Why not suspend it from a balloon? Hi! 2NS very quiet of late; busy grinding xtals for the gang, Trev? 2BP still chasing up chaps who are members and potential members of the R.A.A.F.W.R. Where do you chaps hide out?

Well, think I'll go and call CQ for ten minutes and go to bed without turning on the RX. That seems to be the fashion these days. Cheerio!

Eric, 2BP,
5th Zone Officer.

ZONE 6.

All the active members of this zone seem to stick to the 80 metre band, despite summer conditions. 2WH has discarded the batteries, and is now using a three-stage CC outfit, deriving power from an alternator driven from a 32 volt lighting plant. The quality of his fone is a little harsh, due to the use of a P.M.G. type mike. At the time of writing 2WH is visiting VIM. 2NM, who, by the way, is a radio service man, has been sadly neglecting his business lately, rebuilding his transmitter. He is now using 2A5's in push-pull modulation. Also transferred his rig to aluminium chassis. Is now troubled by a bad hum in the RF portion. The rig is CC using push-pull throughout 46's, 47's and 210's. The quality of the fone is better than when using class B modulation, though the hum is very bad.

2QA, as usual, has been making changes, the outfit now consisting of four stages, C643 CO, 112A buffer, PM256 and C606 in push-pull, class C, modulated by a pair of 45's, and a pair of 46's PP class B linear. The ant is AOG, 170 ft. long, end fed. (It works!) Have also been trying different receivers. Now using SG det es one. We extend our sympathy to all users of two-tubers. At present we are concentrating on supers; but so far have not been past the draughtsman, all our efforts being on paper. Testing here, we have found that the 46 tube makes a fb class B linear amplifier, following a low-power fone transmitter. Being primarily designed for class B operation, it naturally follows that the obvious thing to do is connect the two grids together, use no bias at all, and adjust the excitation until the input is normal, about 50 mils per tube. Using 400 volt power supply it is possible to obtain 20 watts from a single 46. Using two tubes in PP or parallel inputs up to 40 watts can be obtained, the operation being perfectly linear. Have also tried link coupling, and find it far superior to the usual capacitance coupling. Here we obtain more than double the drive we had previously. Other chaps using it report equally gratifying results. It seems that the inclusion of an extra condenser and coil is more than made up for, especially on phone transmitters, where it is essential to have ample RF drive to obtain symmetrical modulation. [How about an article, 2QA, on this?—Ed. "A.R."]

As far as we know, there are no entries from Zone 6 in the B.E.R.U. test, so we won't have to worry about obtaining that much coveted trophy. 73 till next month.

JACK (2QA),

A.R.A. Zone Officer.

ZONE 7.

Owing to rebuilding operations, 2FI has been inactive during the past month, and very little information on conditions is available. The Temora gang report conditions very poor for DX. and QRN bad.

VK2KD succeeds in raising a fair amount of DX with a three-stage xtal rig using 47 CO, 46 FD, and 210 PA with an input of 20 watts and a $\frac{1}{2}$ -wave Zepp on 40 metres. VK2FZ is using a similar rig to 2KD's, with the exception that a TCO4/10 is used in the

PA, with an input of 50 watts. A 40-metre half-wave Zepp and four-tube A.C. receiver completes the outfit. Gordon completed WAC last month, but is waiting confirmation from three continents.

2JQ had the time of his life during the famous Moruya flood. He made arrangements with the post master to handle all telegraphic traffic and had VK2OF standing by; but they were not needed, as the landlines were put in order in time. 2JQ gets 25 watts into a CC transmitter, and finds it easier to work W's than VK2's. He is handicapped owing to the power supply not being on in the daytime and going off again at midnight. Two others of the 2UO gang, Doug. and Athol, have obtained their tickets, and are sitting for the April examination. VK2TZ is also in Wagga again, but inactive owing to a bad attack of YL'itis. VK2YI has again gone bush, and is down at Rand for a few weeks; but has no gear with him. Harry is now QRO with a 600 volt tranny, and since working a W6 he can't keep his hat on. VK2PN still gets on the air occasionally. Ross blew up his pair of 81 rectifiers, and is now going in for something bigger. VK2GT gets much more time for radio since he returned to Tumut, and he now has the backyard like a spider's web.

Well, that's all the news of the gang for this month, so "Cul," 73.

ATHOL.

A.R.A. Zone Officer.

ZONE 8.

VK2DN is now back from holidays, and is making up for lost time doing service work. It has Jack tied up a little, and he has not been able to devote much time to ham radio this year, but still manages to grind out some music on 200 metres. H's second op. has shifted QRA to Wagga, and is now "dug in" at 2UO. Jack has just been sworn in as member of the R.A.A.F.W.R. Ivan, of 2EG, is trying to get used to his new QRA at Tallangatta, and is now VK3EG. All will be well when the gear arrives, so long as he can find a way to get the sigs "up and over" those hills.

Conditions here for the first week-end of B.E.R.U. contest were so bad that it was useless to participate. The QST idea of key'ng with 245's has been used at 20J for the past few months with good results. The usual practice, however, of CT keying has

been discarded, and the tubes are used in +HT to the buffer stage. The scheme has proved most effective, as keying is clean and BCL's never know when the station is on the air.

Cheerio to all, CU next month.
73's.

NOEL (VK2OJ),
A.R.A. Zone Officer.

NORTH SHORE ZONE.

It doesn't seem possible that 20 mx can become worse than it has been during the last month. 40 mx has been quiet in the evenings as far as DX is concerned, but after midnight and until the wee sma' hours conditions have been quite good. For local QSO conditions in the evenings on 40 are brightening up again. An occasional glance at 80 confirms the fact that there is not much doing up there. However, good old 2HU appears to answer every chance CQ in that region.

J2GX (who was J1DO) wants it announced that from 1st February all J1 calls will be changed over to J2, and that any persons signing J1 after that date will be unlicensed.

Had a QSO with 2HL on 80 fone recently. He is using a three-stage xtal up there, modulated with double choke Heising Reiss mike. He had a 5 metres RX in the shack, and, although he can hear chaps on the other side of the Harbour at R8/9, so far he hasn't been able to QSO. 2HL has had about 11 DX QSO during the month, including J, AC, and W. Hopes to put a couple of 50 watts in the final shortly. Roy, of 2HY, is disgusted with 20 mx. However, he's worked G, D, VQ4, on 40 in the very early morn. Roy says he heard some fb DX in B.E.R.U. test; but not so easy to QSO. 2HY is rebuilding to bread-board style shortly. 2KA hasn't been on very much, but has had some good European DX in the early morning on 40 mx. Paul's mod system is all A.C. 2KA had a portable DF rx at the Manly field day. 2JY is still another who is staging a comeback. He is building CC or EC rig. Found 20 mx NDG with his old outfit.

Chalk up another victory to the YL's. 2RD is getting married shortly, and from all accounts there will be no salvage for ham radio. Congratulations, Reg, OM, and may your married life be full of happiness. 2PP has been off the air for two years. Andy, of 2VR, has failed to get those

46's perking O.K. What's the next move, OM? Ian, of 2XC, is QRL Uni once more, but is thinking of rebuilding shortly. 2QK is an old-timer come to life again out at Manly. He's using a three-stage xtal with 46's in PP as the final. 2ZG expects to be on again shortly. Say, 2NP, OM, there are a lot of cards in the Bureau for you. 2ND has gone to VK4 for a month, and is on the air up there as 4ND. 2YC is still scattering his fragrance on 10 mx. Hope he migrates up to 40 soon. Some rag chews then, Jim! David Adams, from Wahroonga, appears to take the bun for the youngest A.O.P.C. holder—13 years old. Well done, OM, and I hope the R1 looks the other way and slips you a licence soon.

2YH, who is a country schoolmaster, was in Sydney for his holidays, and was present at the Manly field day. 2YA/2DR had a spill off 2DR's mobike after the last A.R.A. meeting. Back tyre blew out. 2YA is not so keen on mobikes now, and is thinking of purchasing a little car. 2QK, a new ham on the air, has worked WAC in a week, using three-stage xtal with 247 CO, 46 FD, 46's PP PA, 1 tube RX (hi) QRA Violet street, Manly. 2NG is still working Yanks and KA's. 2UP has at last purchased a meter (hi). Jim is planning a high power rig. Been using TNT on QRP. Tom, of 2KM, finds conditions NDG for DX at his QRA. Still has hopes of QSO-ing VK6. 2UG is still surfing, and busy with his aviary of birds. Heard sometimes on C.W. 2EL is now over in Manly, and comes in there with a wallop. Eric reports DX fb in Manly. Two A.O.P.C. candidates from Manly passed OK last exam. More QRM shortly.

Well, that's about QRU now, so once again I'll say 73 until next month.

DON (2DR),
A.R.A. Zone Officer.

Q.R.P. CLUB NOTES.

From the Roof of N.S.W., February, 1934.

Well, gang, here we are again, and this will be the last lot of notes from 2EZ, as I have resigned from the club. 2GT, George Bruce, of Capper Street, Tumut, is the new Secretary, and I sincerely hope that the gang will support him in every possible

way. The operator of 2EZ has returned to Sydney, city of beautiful surf beaches. T9YB, and 240 volts a.c., and hopes to be QRO soon. I trust that all the hams I have asked for monthly notes will forward same to 2GT as usual, so that the club can make a decent show in these notes. Now for some dope on the rest of the gang.

3CD rather inactive of late, but manages to get on for RAAFWR skeds, uses 8 or 9 watts input to a PM24B in a xtal. osc. rig. Hopes to be QRO soon with a 75 watt motor generator.

4NG with his portable rig now located on Tambourine mountain, and judging by the results obtained the location must be excellent. Expects to be located at Canungra soon, which is in a valley hemmed in by mountains 3800ft. high on either side. It will be interesting to see how his QRP sigs get out of this hole.

2XP not on much lately, but hopes to be shortly, when his new B batteries arrive. Guess the hand-generator idea a bit tiresome, Jeff.

2GH QSY his QRA to beach shack, and is now living the simple life and is QSO some nice jewfish, oysters or what have you!

3 JV has been rather QRL with the harvest, but is able to find time for RAAAFWR skeds. He has been using a 201A in xtal osc. circuit, but finds the output rather low, and intends building a PA for it.

Well, boys, hope you will forward your notes along to George. Cherrio, Gang, ex 73.

JACK 2EZ.

ZERO BEAT RADIO CLUB.

Secretary: E. Moginie.

Well, here we are at last; but don't blame us for not coming along before, as our publicity officer has been over-worked (hi). Now we are here we take the opportunity of extending fraternal greetings to all hams, brother organisations, and the responsible officers for "Amateur Radio."

The club meets two nights a week, Tuesdays and Fridays. From 7.30 to 8.30 p.m. Morse classes are held, and from 8.30 to 10 p.m. lectures, debates, etc. Also from 7.30 to 8.30 p.m. each club night 2ZB is on the air for the purpose of Morse lessons and practice for our country and Interstate visitors.

At the moment we are using TNT push-pull, a pair of PX4's with 240 DC from council's mains straight on to the job, but within the next month we will be on with a brand spanking new three-stage CC job.

All members are now busy brushing up their gear for the exhibition to be held on the 28th to 10th March in the Sydney Town Hall, whilst about a dozen are anxiously awaiting call signs. We had 10 out of 13 successful in the last A.O.P.C.

Noticed in February issue that 20Z hadn't QSL'd to PK3BQ. Well, we'll shake him up about it. All for now. 73 till next issue, and hope there's about two columns for us. (Hi!)

VK4 (QUEENSLAND DIVISION)

The monthly meeting was held at headquarters, Heindorff House, Queen street, Brisbane, on Friday, February 2, before a good attendance of transmitting and student members.

The resignation of Mr. E. Shorten, 4TS, owing to other business activities, was accepted with regret, and Mr. H. Angel was elected to take office until the annual meeting.

Congratulations were extended to the following students on their success at the recent A.O.P.C. exam.:—A. D. Macpherson, H. Lynch and Mr. Bremmerman.

Those participants in the M.P.W. portable contest are reminded that the last day of the test is the 25th March, and, finally, all logs must be returned to the secretary, Box 1524V, G.P.O., Brisbane, not later than the 9th April, and marked "Contest."

The following have been admitted as members of this division:—4EI, 4EL, 4FM, 4KA.

Federal Convention.—A report from the Federal Convention has been received, the results of which are very satisfactory, and we would like to extend our congratulations to Federal Headquarters and delegates concerned in their efforts.

The following stations were heard quite a lot during the first week-end of the B.E.R.U. test:—4RV, 4GK, 4BB, 4EL, 4UK, and 4WT, and all seemed to be getting a good number of contacts. It is hoped that scores will be available for next month's notes.

On Foundation Day 4RY, 4WT and two student members journeyed to Mount Gravatt with portable 56 MC receiver and 80 MX fone transmitter, and were successful in receiving 56 MC telephony from 4AW, of Nundah, at strength varying from R7-9, the distance being ten miles. A three-way Qso was worked between 4RY, 4GK and 4AW on 80, 40 and 5 MX respectively. The 5MX transmitter used at 4AW consisted of a 210 series Hartley, UX 250 Heising modulator and two 201A's as speech amplifiers, using the 40 MX antenna system. The plate voltage used was 300, and a reduction to 200 volts showed only a drop of one point in signal strength. Speech was still audible using 50 volts on the plate, and probably would have been better had the modulator bias been altered accordingly. Further tests are anticipated at an early date.

Cheerio till next month.

73

RY.

VK5 (SOUTH AUST.)

The first transmitters' section meeting for this year was held on the 24th January, and was presided over by 5WP before an approximate attendance of 20. We had two visitors, VK6KR and VK5JH.

5GR then spoke on the forthcoming B.E.R.U. contest, explaining all the rules. The way he and 5MU acted it seems that these two won't get any sleep during the contest.

5GR then read an article by W6HM from the "Australian Radio News." 5WP described his portable transmitter and receiver, which he intends using during his vacation down the Coorong. It is sure fb, and the whole lot is contained in an Airzone portable receiver cabinet. The transmitter uses a 171A in a Hartley circuit, and the receiver utilises a 32 detector and 33 audio.

5QR then gave us a description of his portable gear, which is even smaller than that of 5WP. It is a seven tube affair, and is contained in a 14 x 14 panel, and consists of a mopa with speech amp and modulator, and works on 20, 40 and 80 metres.

Our VK6 visitor then gave us an insight into conditions prevailing in Western Australia. He informs us that South African stations come in

like locals, and are just as easy to work. Nevertheless, there are no VK6 stations W.A.C., South America being the "catch." The 14 MC band is practically useless over there at present. He also gave us the "low down" on the 95 ft. mast at VK6FO. They had quite a lot of fun getting this pole from a horizontal to a vertical position, HI! The darn thing, having a nasty habit of breaking and piercing the roof, caused quite a fair bit of damage. However, it is up now, and there is something like three gross of insulators in the nine sets of guys.

The VK6 boys are waiting on a two tube superhet. from VS6AH, using pentagrig tubes, and having the usual crystal filter, making it a true single sig super in two tubes! I think the VK6 boys are not the only ones who will be interested in this receiver.

After this interesting talk by VK6KR, 5WP put forward a suggestion to hold a picnic at Pt. Noarlunga on the 29th January. Everyone approved, so it was decided to leave the clubrooms for Pt. Noarlunga at 10 a.m.

The general meeting was held on 31st January.

Four new members were passed at this meeting. The distribution of QSL cards followed, after which 5RP and other members of the TDS gave a very interesting lecture on 56 MC work and equipment, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everybody. This lecture was followed by a practical demonstration. A three-tube super Regen receiver was used in conjunction with a PP 245 audio amplifier, and this combination filled the clubrooms with a special broadcast from 5RG.

After this programme was finished 5DA was tuned in, and duplex telephony was worked with him from the clubrooms by 5RP. The gear used by 5RP was a PP 171A oscillator, modulated, with a direct coupled 250 amplifier. A vote of thanks was moved by our new Federal president, 5FM, and was suitably responded to by everyone present. This lecture should show quite a few of our members that 56 MC isn't as "tough" as they think it is, and it should increase activity on this fine band.

5MW has not been heard for some time. 5MD is on 200 metre band, with excellent quality; uses a Hartley, with an E406 modulated with a direct coupled 250; only puts point 3

in antenna, but gets out very fb. 5MC now in Melbourne, and may start up there. 5MF has built two seven-tube supers, same as the National FB7; one has gone up to 5PK, and AI has the other one himself. I believe they are the "berries." 5MH will soon be on the air again on 200 and 40 metres, with telephony. 5MK is about the most active of the "M" gang, and is on the air almost continuously. 5LG spends about 95 per cent. of his life at the Gilberton swimming pool, the attraction being the YL's and not the water. Be careful, Leith, HI! 5JU surprised everybody by attending the 31st Jan. meeting. 5GO may be going bush shortly. George is with the West Australia Airways, and his QRA is Parafield Aerodrome. 5JO was heard working a good deal of DX. Here's a new ham for chaps to keep an ear open for, VK5RF, Colin Howie, 1 Chapman street, New Mile End. Colin uses a Hartley with seven watts to a 245, and has worked a considerable number of Interstate stations.

73 VK5ML.

ANNUAL PICNIC.

The question of whether married men are superior at cricket to single ones was decided at the annual picnic of the VK5 division of the W.I.A. on Sunday, 21st January. The picnic was held at Hawthorndene, a pretty spot in the Adelaide Hills, about 12 miles from the capital.

About 50 members, YL's and OW's, met in the city in the morning and went up in cars. It was a perfect South Aussie summer day—too perfect, in fact, because some of the chaps who had not become tanned went home looking like crayfish.

Married men batted first, 5YK and 5JO opening. These two stalwarts made the best partnership of the day, knocking up nearly 90 before YK was sent back to the shade of the gums with 34 to his credit. YK was like a cat though—nine lives! HI! HI! 5JO carried his bat nearly right through the innings for a magnificent 58, top scorer. F.B. O.M.

As regards to the rest of the match it had better be left to imagination. The scores tell their own tale. 5LF made the ump's arms tired waving wides at first but did quite a lot of damage among the married men later. (Welcome back to radio, Len. It's ages since the gang have seen you.) Several chaps returned from

the wickets with their Christmas dinners under their arms. 5WP kept wickets well for the single men, while 5MU proved to be valuable in the outfield.

One or two potential champions were seen in action on the tennis court. Mr. and Mrs. 5RP kept the court busy, and 5BY, 5WP, 5MU and 5LF, also showed that they could handle a racquet as well as a cricket bat.

Scores in the cricket match were:—

Married, 195—A. Reimann (5JO) 58, A. Richardson (5YK) 34, G. Luxon (5RX) 0, S. Buckerfield (5DA) 24, D. Whitburn (5BY) 0, H. Bowman (5FM) 0, R. Bruce (5BJ) 10, R. Grett 6, M. Gray, snr., 4, H. Pitchford 6, J. McAlister n.o. 15; Sundries 38; total 195.

Single, 72—J. McGee 4, L. Deane (5LD) 9, W. Pitchford (5WP) 0, G. Ragless (5GR) 9, H. Osman (5RW) 10, Colin Howie (5RF) 1, L. Sawford (5LF) 0, G. Gray 10, Castle (5-KL) 1, Eric Halliday 4, R. Gray 0, M. Gray (5MU) n.o. 4; sundries, 20; Total 72.

TRANSMITTING SECTION PICNIC.

The Transmitting Section of the VK5 Division, held a picnic on Monday, 29th January, at Port Noarlunga, about 30 miles from Adelaide.

There was a good roll up, including 3ML and 6KR, who were in Adelaide at the time for the Convention. Beach cricket and bathing were the main items of the day, and all who went said that they had a F.B. time.

Special thanks were due to 5FM, who took no less than ten down in his car. Guess the old 'bus must have grunted going up some of those hills, OM.

VK6 (WEST AUSTRALIA)

By "Prescription."

The general meeting for February was held at headquarters in the Amateur Sports Club's Building, King street, Perth, on Thursday, the 16th, and was presided over by 6AG, with 6JK as secretary and 6LK as assistant secretary.

Despite the muggy weather, a fair crowd rolled along, but on looking around it was found to consist for the

most part of the good old "stickers." It seems a pity that a greater number of the newer hams do not take an interest in general meetings, etc. However, it takes all kinds to make a world, including those people who take all possible and give nothing in return, so it seems hopeless for me to do more talking on this subject.

Business was commenced at 8 p.m., and continued until approximately 9.30 p.m., during which time much was discussed, including the reopening of WIA traffic channels to the Eastern States, and also a committee was formed to see what could be done to get 6WI on the air once again. This time the gear will probably be constructed in a portable form.

6KR, who had just returned from VK6, where he attended the conference as a delegate from this State, gave us an outline of all that had been done. I think that everyone present was of the opinion that he had carried through magnificently, and also realised the greater satisfaction of having a delegate present.

The meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.

After an absence of over eighteen months from the air, 6BN intends to make a lively comeback. He is building a portable split Colpitts. 6RL's CC rig has not been too much of a success to date. The last stage absolutely refuses to feed, and as much time is taken up in travelling 12 miles to and 12 miles from work each day, he says he intends to build a self-excited rig, just to be able to say that he has something on the air. 6MN has been chasing DX before the break of day. On three occasions he QSO'd absolutely nil on 40, so now 20 metres receives his patronage, with the result that G's and D's, etc., now hold no further interest for him. Syd. is, in my opinion, the most consistent VK6 heard. 6CP is very often heard on 40 with good CW, and, thinking of his "cobbers," he usually confines fone to daylight QSO's.

6FO has been doing great work in the B.E.R.U. contest, and has WBE time and time again. Someone whispered that he heard a South American on 20, and after many calls at five-minute intervals, had to enter ND in the log. 6RW is using an MOPA driven from 220 volt DC mains. He is often heard in Perth now on Sunday mornings, as "skip" seems to have lifted. 6KR did great work at the VK5 Convention for VK6, to the satis-

faction of all. Reports still attempting to devise an antenna to reach VK6. 6CX seen more often with YL's than heard on the air. 6RA still QRP. It is reported that his fone has been mistaken for a power leak.

6GM has constructed a ribbon mike. He says that he has obtained good quality, even though the correct ribbon is unobtainable in VK6. YL's, etc., now receive more attention from 6LJ than does ham radio. 6SA in his few spare moments is building a new shack. Why? 6BB has been seen, but not heard, tearing around the river with portable gear on both the s.s. Emerald and the s.s. Perth. 6LK was situated on top of the "Daily News" building, also with portable gear, and was BB's receiving station. At present he is swotting hard for his telephony ticket, for which he is sitting in March. Good luck, Minor.

6AG expects to be too busy to be able to get on the air for about three months, but says he will make up for lost time when he comes back. 6FT seems to be unable to make up his mind whether to sit for a first class or telephony ticket next March. Best of luck, whichever it may be, Fred. 6MO and 6FL are down in Perth from Watheroo and Geraldton respectively for a few weeks. The latter has been hitting up some wonderful scores in country cricket.

VK7 TASMANIAN DIVISION

The monthly meeting was held at the new headquarters in Collins Street, Hobart, on Tuesday, 13th February, before a good attendance of members.

After the usual formalities arrangements for another field day were made, and it was decided to hold it on the 4th March.

Although the new rooms have just been obtained our new secretary had things in ship-shape order in the meeting room, which showed to good advantage the change over from the old rooms.

General activity on the bands this month has been a little better. The erratic behaviour of 40 MX is (no doubt the reason why 80 MX is becoming popular again despite the presence of bad QRN at times. Several rather good interstate fones can be

heard at good strength, and ZL's came in with a kick at times.

10 MX during the last three or four weeks has allowed some interstate contacts to be made. I will endeavour to give some idea of the CONDX here in VIH during the period. On 4th February 2XY with nice T8 signals was heard about 10 p.m. at R7/8; but by the time I had the transmitter perking on the band his signals had QSB to about R3/5, but managed to have a short QSO with him. 2XY was the only 10 MX sig. heard during the week-end of the 4th February. During the following week-end (11th February) the following signals were heard and contacted, 2XY, 2BX, 2NO. Strength varied from R8/2 and after 1 p.m. no signs of any stations could be heard at all. VK2's could be heard QSO with VK3, but, unfortunately, no VK3 signals were logged here. On the 11th a harmonic from 2ML working on one of the lower frequency bands was heard about R4/5. To-day's mail brings a report from VK3OF on 7NC's 10 MX, on 11th February, strength R8. I would very much like to QSO some more VK3's on this band. All States, with the exception of VK6, have been contacted here. On 18th February the only signal heard was that of 2XY QSO with 2NO, but QSB right out soon after he was last heard.

Here in VIM CONDX on ten MX seem best when the weather is hot and sultry. Well, OMS on next month, 73.
VK7NC.

NORTH SUBURBAN RADIO CLUB (VK3FY)

At the last meeting of the above club a very interesting talk was given by Mr. Chris. Rainbow. 3JR, on "Auto Radios," which was enjoyed by a large gathering of members and visitors. JR's lecture was broadcast on 40 metres. We hope to broadcast all lectures for the benefit of all hams and BCL's who are not fortunate enough to be members of our "live wire" club.

At the close of the meeting the following were enlisted as members:—E. Gillitt, Carlton; Robt. Leeder and Robt. Richardson, Collingwood; Dan Havin, Carlton; and Jack Corcoran, North Richmond.

The meetings for March will be held on the 5th and 19th inst., at the

clubrooms, 354 Rathdown street, North Carlton, to which all interested are invited.

A Morse class has commenced, and will be continued at 3FY's clubrooms every Monday evening, other than general meeting nights.

3OQ, one of 3FY's ops., has been very QRL with a brand new YL, so we expect the building of the new crystal rig will be abandoned. (FB, Ron, 'tis better to sit on a park seat till 1 a.m. than to be glued to a pair of cans chasing DX.) 3TY, our new president, is building a three-stage crystal rig, and is at present operating on the 40 metre band. 3FZ, the Sec., is contemplating a crystal rig in favour of the Hartley. Previously a single 210 has been used and worked DX with ease.

Crystal control has become so popular that I believe all the pirates are forming an "Anti-A.O.P.C. Union" to enforce the use of C.C. on all transmitters above a half-watt. What watt?

By the time these notes go to press our colleague, 3PA, will have taken the vows of matrimony, and the members of 3FY wish Percy and Mrs. PA the very best for their future happiness. Congrats, OM.

The secretary, Mr. F. Maher, 3FZ, 102 McKean street, North Fitzroy, will be pleased to acknowledge all inquiries concerning club activities.—Wm. Wonder, publicity officer.

VICTORIAN QSL BUREAU

Cards are on hand at the Victorian Qsl Bureau, 23 Landale street, Box Hill, for the undermentioned stations:—3BC, BP, BX, CA, CT, DY, ER, FB, FC, FM, GA, GU, GX, JL, JW, JX, JY, LM, LP, MH, MX, NC, NR, NT, OP, OX, OZ, PK, RN, RW, SK, UJ, VU, WB, WK, WP, WX, XK, XQ, YL, YR, ZY, ZF. The above cards will be forwarded to the owners on receipt of a stamped envelope.

In this month's mail was a letter reading:—"QSL Manager, I have before me a copy of the January 'Amateur Radio,' and notice therein a list of cards on hand. I have heard all the stations mentioned on several occasions. Kindly forward me a card from each of the stations mentioned."

The new address of the J.A.R.L. is P.O. Box 377, Tokyo, Japan.

FB8VX is located in Madagascar.

A nice card of truly national design and of good appearance is that of VK3SB.

W5IA, of Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A., writes soliciting 3.5 MC skeds with VK. W5IA has heard VK on this frequency on numerous occasions during the past year. Any VK desirous of establishing and maintaining a schedule please write this Bureau for full particulars.

R. E. JONES, VK3RJ,
Qsl Manager.

1934 CONVENTION

Adelaide was chosen as the meeting ground for the Federal Council this year, and February the 27th saw the opening of the Tenth Annual Federal Convention.

Only two Divisions sent delegates over, and the remainder were represented by proxies. Victoria chose Mr. Cunningham, VK3ML, as their representative, and Western Australia Mr. Bell, VK6KR. It was very pleasant to have Mr. Bell at the Convention, because his Division has not been directly represented since 1925.

The members of the Federal Executive present were:—Mr. R. B. Caldwell, Federal President; Mr. R. D. Elliott, Federal Vice-president; Mr. G. B. Ragless, Federal Publicity Officer; Mr. H. N. Bowman, Federal Traffic Manager; and Mr. E. A. Barber, Federal Secretary. The following proxies were appointed:—Mr. G. B. Ragless, for Tasmania; Mr. L. Deane, for Queensland; and Mr. O. J. R. Richardson represented South Australia.

At 8 n.m. on the 27th the Federal President welcomed the representatives from the other States and declared the meeting open. Altogether there were 20 items listed on the agenda for discussion, but only a few appeared to be of major importance. Those of minor value dealt with matters pertaining to amateur operating generally and A.O.P. certificates. Although these have been brought up at previous Conventions, they were fully discussed, and definite action was directed. However, space does not permit us to publish anything but the content'ous or important items.

The first and perhaps the most outstanding, item was the affiliation of the Association of Radio Amateurs

(N.S.W.) with the W.I.A. It was moved by Mr. Cunningham (Vic.) and seconded by Mr. Ragless (Tas.) "That the affiliation of the Association of Radio Amateurs of N.S.W. with the Wireless Institute of Australia be accepted." Carried unanimously. Mr. Cunningham further moved "That the A.R.A. be accepted as the official representative of the W.I.A. in N.S.W.," which was seconded by Mr. Ragless and carried unanimously.

Item 6 dealt with commercial interference on the amateur bands. It was realised that this Institute was powerless to deal with such a matter direct, but it was decided to offer our support to the I.A.R.U. again as a help to fight the case. This was done by the following motion, moved by Mr. Cunningham (Vic.), and seconded by Mr. Deane (Qld.)—"That the Secretary write to all affiliated organisations of the I.A.R.U., and that the matter be again brought before the P.M.G. Department." Carried unanimously.

"That the location of Federal Headquarters remains in South Australia" was carried on the motion of Mr. Cunningham (Vic.), seconded by Mr. Deane (Qld.).

No. 7 item was of great importance, and on the motion of Mr. Cunningham (Vic.), seconded by Mr. Deane (Qld.), it was resolved—"That the P.M.G. Department be approached to standardise the A.O.P.C. papers in all States."

"That the official organ of the W.I.A. continue to be the 'Amateur Radio' until next Convention." was moved by Mr. Deane (Qld.) and seconded by Mr. Ragless (Tas.). An amendment, moved by Mr. Cunningham (Vic.) and seconded by Mr. Richardson (S.A.), "That the words 'until the next Convention' be deleted from the motion," was put and carried, with Mr. Ragless (Tas.) dissenting. Mr. Deane (Qld.) did not vote.

The old question of phone on 40 metres was again brought up, and it was moved by Mr. Cunningham (Vic.), with Mr. Deane (Qld.) seconding, "That each State endeavour to suppress and control music on 40 metres after dark." Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Ragless (Tas.) and seconded by Mr. Deane (Qld.)—"That each Division of the W.I.A. be asked to take steps to suppress A.C. signals in their respective Divisions." Carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Bell (W.A.), supported by Mr. Ragless (Tas.), it was resolved "That the P.M.G. be asked to consider the reduction of experimental licence fees."

Per capita payments (item No. 17) were dealt with and discussed at length. On the motion of Mr. Deane (Qld.), seconded by Mr. Ragless (Tas.), it was resolved—"That a flat rate of 10 per cent. be levied on all Divisions and affiliated Societies from the amount of subscriptions received, excluding the amount of the Official Organ subscription."

Following this, Mr. Bell (W.A.) moved and Mr. Deane (Qld.) seconded—"That the Federal Executive should submit a detailed and audited account of receipts and expenditure of per capita payments to each Division within one month before each annual Convention." Carried unanimously.

A proposed new constitution was brought before the Convention and was thoroughly gone into. It was realised that it would be impossible to accept such a constitution for all Divisions, owing to differing state of affairs. However, it was decided, after

amending it roughly at the Convention, to submit it to each Division for consideration. It is hoped that a standard constitution can be brought into effect and adopted, as closely as possible, by all Divisions, thereby increasing our strength as a Federally united body.

An election of officers for the ensuing year was then held, with the following appointments:—

Federal President and Federal Traffic Manager : Mr. H. N. Bowman.

Federal Vice-president : Mr. R. D. Elliott.

Federal Publicity Officer : Mr. G. B. Ragless.

Federal Secretary : Mr. E. A. Barber.

The Fisk trophy was then presented by the retiring President (Mr. R. B. Caldwell) to the winning State's representative, Mr. R. H. Cunningham (Vic.). The visiting delegates from W.A. and Vic. expressed appreciation for the welcome they had been given and thanked Messrs. Elliott and Bowman for their hospitality.

Thus ended the Tenth Convention.

R.A.A.F. Wireless Reserve Notes



VMC

Total No. of Messages **1183**

Average per Station **76**



VMC4

Total No. of Messages **726**

Average per Station **121**



3D6

Total No. of Messages **207**

Federal Notes by the C.O.

By the time these notes are in print March the 1st will be on us. This is the date that has been put aside for the commencement of Reserve training in all districts. All orders and instructions will take effect from this date and could be marked down in the history of the Reserve as being the beginning of the training of what is going to develop

into a strong and well organised unit. During the past month many new stations were officially enrolled and the ground work of stationery supply issue, etc., has been covered. So now there only remains the training and the brighter sides of the organisations to commence. Perhaps it would seem that I have made "training" a dull and monotonous pastime. It is certainly not meant that way, be-

cause behind message handling and exercises there is always experienced a thrill that seems to be missing in the amateur game. To become A1 operators seems to be the ambition of every member to-day. One has only to look at the traffic returns, they speak for themselves. Then, again, it is understood that VMC members are even at it from 6 a.m. in the morning. The best example of enthusiasm is to be found in VMG, where, with only five active members so far, they can return a total of 52 messages per head a month. It is impossible to describe the feeling that exists between Reserve members. We have never experienced anything similar before. Hams may come, and hams may go, after they have worked all that their hearts desire. After that there is little left in the game; but in the Reserve, where there is a definite organization, the members are always finding something new about it. There is a "kick" a day, so to speak.

March the 1st will certainly start a unit in operation that will change the amateur's outlook completely. There will be something for him to follow on with and keep on the air. But, first let him contact all the DX he desires, and after that he is welcome to a brotherhood that is stronger than the Service itself. I am not saying all this just to fill up space, but it's because I am looking far ahead where I can see the Reserve with not a mere 200 or so members, but with every ham with a spark of love for duty and his Country signed up. Can you describe the thrill you got out of handling your first message? Did you turn the opportunity down? No, of course not. You got the same kick out of that as you did when you contacted your first DX station. You felt that you would shift heaven and earth to get a 100 per cent. copy.

That's, in a nut shell, the feeling that the Reservist experiences, not just the once, but at all times. There is a rhythm behind message handling; a desire to hand-over dozens of messages one after the other. I am not talking "hokey" either—just glance at the traffic awards this month and last month. It proves itself. I am not asking you to join the Reserve, I am just playing fair to all hams outside the organization by telling them what is there for them; it can-

not be repeated every month. The Reserve is a unit of honour, and you could never find such esprit-de-corps or such enthusiasm to serve in any other fraternity in the world.

There is plenty of room for the willing ham in the Reserve and applications may be made through the appropriate District Commander, whose amateur call is given at the top of each District notes.

We have two new District Commanders to take over command of training in two very promising States. VK2BP is now getting N.S.W. into its old stride of years ago, and VK5SU is going to carry on the work where VK5MB had to leave off. Both these districts are starting off afresh and it remains to be seen which District Commander can do the best job! Hundreds of log books, message pads, and lapel badges, have been issued this month and this is where I sit at ease and watch, with great hopes, the progress of each district, for it is for the members and their District Commanders to make their district a success now. PHC.

SECOND DISTRICT NOTES.

(By 2Z1-VK2BP.)

Activity will have commenced here by the time these notes are printed and three of four sections will be well under way. Applications are continuing to roll in, and VMB will soon be well represented all over the State.

The organisation of sections has been a rather difficult proposition with us, because of the vast area to be covered, and frequency problems are to be overcome. However, with carefully balanced sections there should be no difficulty in maintaining 100 per cent. communication.

It is not possible to write personal notes at this stage, because the members have not settled down yet, but next month you'll hear all about our doings. We will be putting over the snappiest traffic you have ever heard!

THIRD DISTRICT NOTES.

(By 3ZI-VK3UK.)

With the deletion of 3A1, 3A2 and 3A6 from our active ranks, reported last month, VMC1 has been very much disorganised. But it is hoped that this section will be fully strengthened again within the next few weeks. There have been seven new

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enlistments this month and from these new stations the vacancies will be filled.

The main item of news this month was the announcement of the Ramsay Trophy winner for 1933-4, and we want to add our congratulations to 3C6 for his very fine performance in winning this magnificent cup. Anyone who has not copied a long message, in which the words have been purposely misspelt, can have any idea how difficult it is to write a copperplate copy and the fact that 3C6's return was nearly flawless speaks highly for his copying skill.

3D1 paid a flying visit, of about, three hours, to the city about the middle of the month, and a few hazy points of procedure were gone over. 3A4 has just returned from one of the pleasure cruises and will now have the "pleasure" of trying to recover some lost sleep! 3D4 will be leaving about the middle of next month, on the Java cruise, and Bruce Mann has just left for the Solomon Islands. These cruises seem to be very popular with the boys at present, but apparently only the country members have the money to go during these hard times! !

Schedules are proceeding as usual. (the only disruption this month being due to the W.I.A. cricket match, described elsewhere in this issue.) The whole city membership, with the exception of 3C6 were "off duty" on this day. 3Z1 has moved from the old QRA and his transmitter is dismantled at present. He has been operating each Sunday either from 1A1 or 3Z2, and the latter station has been collecting the mid-week traffic from all sections. 3B6 has been transferred to the country and will be leaving his QRA in South Melbourne about the beginning of March. We understand he will be going to Warragul, but do not yet know if he will be there long enough to set up his gear. The city will be losing one of its best stations and we hope that he will soon be back in Melbourne again. Both 3B3 and 3C3 are expected down here within the next few weeks, and we hope to have the opportunity of seeing a great deal of them during their stay. Having our country members down to town fairly frequently gives us many opportunities to discuss knotty points, and also to make future plans, which will be most suit-

able to conditions all over the State. We are hoping to run a DX contest amongst the VMC members within the next few weeks, and are preparing rules, etc., now, so as to make the contest fair to all stations using all types of gear. As the DX season is fast leaving, it will have to be within the next few weeks or there will be no DX left to work, with the sole exception, perhaps, of the W's.

FOURTH DISTRICT NOTES.

By 4Z1-VK4AW.

Training in VMD has commenced 28th January with two weekly watches. In order to provide maximum coverage and times to suit as many members as possible the watches are held each Sunday at 1000 hours 6555 kcs., and at 1900 hours 4155 kcs., with instructional broadcasts at 1030 and 1930 in each case.

Several present members have been keeping watches, although the percentage is rather low. If for any reason 4Z1 is not heard at readable strength by all VMD members, they are asked to advise immediately, so that arrangements can be made without delay for a more suitable frequency channel and time that will provide a reliable contact.

At the present moment 4155 kcs. is troubled by static, which is particularly bad in NQ, but should prove its worth by next month as winter approaches.

Traffic totals this month are rather poor, due in three cases to clashing with activities in the B.E.R.U. contest, but we hope, with the aid of those, to provide a larger total for next report.

Traffic Totals.

4A3, 1; 4A4, 3; 4JM, 1.

FIFTH DISTRICT NOTES.

(By 5Z1-VK5SU.)

We are looking forward to the 1st March, when we will be able to put our sections into operation and get our show going. At present we have the majority of the best operators in the State signed up, who are anxious to hop into R.A.A.F. procedure. Watches are being maintained weekly with 1A1 for reception of the latest news and instructions. It is our ambition to get every country station a member of the Reserve, and many have signified their intention of applying for enrolment. Unfortunately, the organisation has taken up much

time lately and it has not been possible to get hold of the personal notes. However, next month you'll see something different!

SIXTH DISTRICT NOTES.

(By 6Z1-VK6MN.)

Since our last notes appeared in these columns, a meeting has been held at 6Z1's shack, and in spite of the short notice given only three were A.W.L. The evening was passed discussing procedure, and VK6RA expressed a desire for an application form to join up. Welcome to the Reserve Bob, OM.

A new comer to hamdom is OM Spencer; just got his ticket and is awaiting call letters. He passes the time of day under the wing of W.A. Airways, and is awaiting an application form to join the Reserve. To him a welcome is also extended. When he gets going the roll call around VIP will have six members, who are active and enthusiastic.

The boys are waiting their call-signs and their arrival will add to the proceedings muchly. 6LK turns up like clock-work to practice, and is shaping well. 6LJ is enjoying another burst of enthusiasm, and although studying for a commercial ticket, keeping his cricket up, and pacifying a YL, keeps his fine fist from getting rusty on Sunday mornings at roll call. 6RA has taken to Reserve procedure like a duck to water. 6FO has been busy chasing BERU points and lost count of the number of times he WBED. Conditions are bad for country contacts at present. No word from 6BO, FL or FM lately. 6RW is awaiting application form, and works a MOPA off 220 volts D.C. mains with some good results. It's a problem to get the Reservists in the country into training, but 3.5 MC may help us out in the winter.

SEVENTH DISTRICT NOTES.

(By 7Z1-VK7RC.)

Congratulations to VMC on the very fine score in the first awards for traffic handling. Guess there must be a host of keen members over there!

We have now allotted official calls to enrolled members, but there are a few more to come. Those active now include 7A1, 7A2, 7A3, 7B1, VK7LZ and 7Z1. We are awaiting the register of members so that we know

who 3C3 is when we read "3C3 has come to town!" It's hard to get used to R.A.A.F. calls! 7A2 thinks that the weekly B/C's are welcome pieces of news that let members know exactly what is doing. All the boys here are looking out for the procedure and other B/C's from headquarters before going on with the training. Plenty of exercises are going over and we are proud of our efforts in traffic handling. It certainly helps the procedure. 7A1 and 7A2 have been keeping regular schedules for traffic handling. The former has rebuilt his transmitter from T.N.T. to Hartley and finds it works much better. 7A2 is waiting a frequency before installing crystal. 7A1 has just completed a new frequency meter and has sent away for a decent dial. He has been doing some early morning work with 7A2 using a portable TPTG rig. 7LZ missed again this month with his report, but is now using a MOPA and has a slight back wave. Nevertheless, the signal is steady. It is rumoured that 7A3 is likely to be leaving us shortly, but nothing definite yet. We would be sorry to lose him.

7Z1 is now using the 3ML transmitter, using a 59 as CO and TBO/4 10 as PA, on all frequencies. EC oscillator is used on R.A.A.F. frequencies by merely taking out the crystal and putting a condenser in its place. The note has now gone from T1-T9!

Heard that 7LZ and 7A2 discovered a pirate in Launceston, but 7A1 said that it was just a back wave from 7LZ! Had you two been to a "ham-feast"? Suggestions in regards awarding our trophy have been slow in coming forth. How about it?

Traffic Totals for February.

7A1, 59. 7A2, 73. 7A3, 41. 7Z1, 46. 7LZ, 36. Total per head, 51.2.

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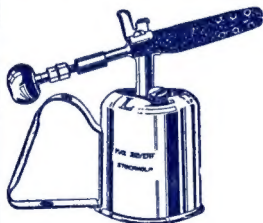


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